

62-8176

WATCH COMMITTEE
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

6 November 1962

JCH

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Roger Hilsman,
Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

SUBJECT : Support for the National Indications
Center (NIC)

1. As Chairman of the USIB Watch Committee, I wish to express our deep appreciation for the emergency arrangements made by the Department to augment the National Indications Center staff during this critical period, and to personally commend the work of Mr. Benjamin M. Zook of your INR who is now on temporary assignment to the NIC. Mr. Zook's presence and outstanding abilities have greatly assisted both the Center and the Watch Committee in meeting their warning responsibilities during the extremely dangerous period through which we are presently moving.

2. Mr. Zook's contribution to the warning process has brought home to me a problem which I have been attempting to resolve since first assuming the chairmanship of the Watch Committee. That is, the absence of State Department representatives in the NIC. For some months now the Department has found itself unable to meet its standing commitment to furnish a senior intelligence officer and a two-man Watch Alert team to the Center's permanent staff. In this respect the Department has been the only USIB agency without representation in the Center. This has seriously limited the NIC's ability to properly integrate and reflect the Department's views and expertise in the national warning process -- one of the most critical of intelligence functions and one of the gravest of intelligence responsibilities. I know you share my concern.

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3. I submit my earnest recommendation that you consider measures that will permit INR to assign the necessary qualified intelligence officers to the NIC on a permanent basis. I feel strongly that the national intelligence interests and those of the Department also will be well served by such assignments.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Chairman

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Drafted by: NIC
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